MATWATCH

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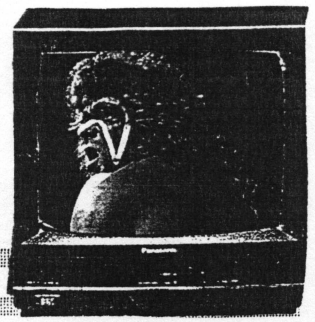

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

WRESTLING PRIEST ARRESTED IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY----Fray Tormenta, profiled in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED last year as "The Wrestling Priest," who wrestled by night to provide a home by day for orphans, has been arrested on a charge of trafficking children.

Tormenta was also charged with physical child abuse and violations of health standards for the orphans' home, including substandard food and water.

A Mexico City newspaper reported a fellow wrestler, Juan Ortiz Cruz (Tigre del Bengala) was the key informant for authorities.

Trial date for Tormenta has not been set.

CORALUZZO TO HOST TWO TOP INDIES

DEPTFORD NJ---Independent promoter Dennis Coraluzzo has a two-night weekend series set for the Philadelphia area Nov. 9-10, headed by a Midnight Express appearance on a benefit card for former insider Tom Robinson.

WCW exec Jim Herd has given Jim Cornette and the M Ex a waiver to appear against Terry Funk and Cactus Jack. Dr. Mark Curtis (Brian C. Hildebrand) will manage the Funk-Jack combo at the Drexel Hill PA show.

In a semifinal, Jerry Lawler will take on Scotty the Body. RASSLIN' RIOT editor Brian Tramel will also appear on the card.

The next night, a Funk-Scotty the Body main event will topline the second card, along with Lawler vs. Cactus, in Bensalem PA.

UNEMPLOYMENT LINE SHORT FOR SAMOAN SWAT TEAM

ATLANTA----Nothing is forever or even for two weeks in pro wrestling.

Only 11 days after being bounced after a dispute with booker Ole Anderson, the Samoan Swat Team returned to NWA action Oct. 1.

No official reason has been given for their quick return but insiders say Samoan Sika threatened action if the SST was not rehired.

Has The Torch Passed?

TELL EDDIE IT'S THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS

MEMPHIS---One way to get under Eddie Gilbert's skin is to refer to the USWA heavyweight championship tournament as THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS. Even if it's fun to needle him about it.

Monday night's event came exactly two years and five days after THE ROAD TO BIRMINGHAM, the ill-fated attempt at a supercard for the old Continental promotion, lost its "super" element. Gilbert, CWF booker, and former CWF owner David Woods had parted company four days before TRTB after a summer-long buildup of major stars.

Eddie had designs of fashioning CWF as a more spectacular version of the Memphis promotion his father co-promoted for years. And he definitely had the entire nation, thanks to his exposure on FNN/SCORE Cable, talking about Continental during his six-month tenure. But, in the back of his mind, his lifelong dream was to someday book Memphis. Perhaps as a proof to himself or to satisfy the innate urge a boy often has to measure up to the footsteps first trod by a father. Our deadline was one day prior to the tourney (full report next week) but I know from my visits with Gilbert in recent months, the Monday night tourney, bringing in some of wrestling's top names, including former NWA champion Terry Funk, whose ring style has been virtually cloned by Gilbert, was probably his personal crowning achievement. More important than the being the catalyst for Ricky Steamboat's NWA return in January 1989. More important than the now-classic BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS brawl in the UWF. More important because it came before home folks and because nothing attracts Eddie as does a challenge. Salvaging what's left of a once-proud Memphis promotion and one of the last independents left with a dedicated following is one of the great challenges for any booker in 1990.

"I'm doing what I really want to do with my life," Eddie told me three months ago, amidst comments from some former colleagues that he was making a mistake leaving a virtual non-existent role with the NWA.

Ironically, even though the Mid-South Coliseum was not expected to be close to capacity Monday night, one felt the electricity present for a great wrestling show. Perhaps one of the last great ring cards ever in a legendary wrestling city. As several colleagues and I have discussed in recent days, for the hardcore fan/newsletter subscriber, it has been the primary topic of phone discussion for two to three weeks. "Do you think Eddie can bring it back?" one caller would ask. "I sure hope Funk and Lawler or Funk and Gilbert get it on at least once," another insisted.

Gilbert had virtually everyone he was after for the tournament with the exception of Paul Orndorff and Ricky Steamboat, the latter of whom was campaigning in Japan. And while by now, the USWA has a new champion---and Gilbert was certainly the prime favorite, I would not have been shocked at a few surprises, including a different victor. I remember how everyone had Eddie pegged as booking himself as CWF titlist at THE ROAD TO BIRMINGHAM. Tom Prichard won the belt that night and I have been told several times over Prichard would have been champion even if the Gilbert-Woods split had not occurred. "Eddie believes strongly there's as much value in him chasing the champion as holding the belt," said a close associate.

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 1)

Regardless of who took the USWA belt, some gut feelings on Gilbert's new challenge:

***CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: This is probably Gilbert's greatest strength. David Woods told me when the CWF ultimately folded: "Eddie could sit down and visualize a new character in his mind and in 15 minutes, he'd have you believing it had come alive." If Memphis and, eventually, Dallas are to revive, Gilbert has to develop strong relationships and conflict, rather than merely elevating former jobbers to main event status (a la Tom Burton), as Memphis has recently done.

***REDUCE MID-SOUTH COLISEUM TO BIMONTHLY: Even though the Jarrett group has a favorable deal with the Coliseum, the day has come to cut back to an every-other-week schedule. You can't keep expecting to draw huge weekly money in a major city, in today's saturated exposure, even with a top-rated live TV show every week to assist. That ever-present need has to be created and too often, the same people and teams are rematched week after week to the point of weariness for fans.

***GUARD AGAINST OVER-ANGLE AND EXCESSIVE HOT SHOTS ON TV: As one of my favorite people in the world, former CWF announcer Charlie Platt, has said: "The reason this business is in the shape it's in is it has hot-shotted the fans to death and nothing is really a surprise any more." If Eddie, and this is a subjective view, had one flaw on his CWF shows, he tended to run too many angles for the ratio of matches and often there was too much for the viewer to have to follow. I think he may have learned from that. His early Memphis efforts have been more disciplined. I just hope---and I've told him this---he does not try too often to "top himself." The car rundown angle was over the line and he needs to wait six to 12 months to try something (hopefully less bizarre) that drastic.

Will Eddie ever put 6,000-9,000 people in the Mid-South Coliseum on a regular basis again? No, and there's no booker in the country who could. The economics and the overexposure of wrestling suggest dramatic changes would have to happen in the industry for that to ever occur again.

But what I predict Eddie Gilbert will do, if he does not get a big-money offer to depart, is make TV wrestling interesting again from Memphis. It will be a program most weeks one will talk about and tape traders will want to exchange. While most viewers will expect the entertaining, they won't easily predict *how* it will happen. Unpredictability is a trademark of Eddie Gilbert and it is the one characteristic which puzzles me why the NWA, other than for political reasons, never gave him a shot at the sole booker's role. Eddie now has his dream job. It's up to him to finish first.

Pinfall Profile

FOLLOWUP: TELL THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

The phone rang on a Wednesday night. The voice was unfamiliar but the message was not.

"It's true Jerry Jarrett is a good businessman. He's made a lot of money," said the caller. "But why don't you tell the other side of the story? Why don't you tell about how he's made all that money? How he's starved wrestlers to death." The caller was referring to our column on Jarrett's strategy in ceding the Dallas territory to Kevin Von Erich.

The charge is one leveled not only at Jarrett but many veteran promoters in the industry. It's been published elsewhere how Jarrett wrestlers, aside from the top-of-the-line competitors subsist on $30-$50-a-night paydays. I don't have to tell you how far those paychecks go.

The caller continued: "Why don't you tell how Lawler, Dundee and Jerry Jarrett's son are the ones who are living in the fine houses and how most of his guys wind up eating at McDonald's and sleeping in their cars because they can't afford to do anything else for themselves?"

That brings up one of the difficult elements of doing an underground wrestling publication: getting information on the record. The penalty most competitors in this industry pay for direct quotes to a MATWATCH or a WRESTLING OBSERVER or PRO WRESTLING TORCH is legendary (though, to be honest, more active wrestling people have given TORCH interviews in the past year and survived than at any time in history). I'm not going to follow the path of one fledgling newsletter editor who once labeled a wrestler as "a known drug user," with no supporting evidence or attribution.

I'd love to be able to tell the "other side of the story," particularly if I could protect the identity and document the conversation for my own protection. But tell me the number of struggling wrestlers willing to take that chance? It's much the same as a situation I face as news director of WBBJ-TV. We've just had a bank holding company collapse in Jackson TN. Investors in that firm have called us right and left, asking us to "tell the whole story," about the man who will likely pay with some prison time for alleged mismanagement of the funds. I keep responding, "If you're willing to talk and document it, we'll protect your identity and tell that side of the story but we can't just manufacture it." In every instance, the caller has refused, usually because of the nature of the job they hold and a fear of an anonymous story being traced to them. A fear I readily appreciate.

I would reiterate that the story centered on Jarrett's shrewdness as a businessman from the standpoint that allowing Von Erich to have Dallas with no TV, little promotional money and no personally demonstrated business success was probably the smartest move Jarrett could make because there is little chance Von Erich can succeed under such conditions. If Kevin taps out, and initial indications are that he will, bet the mortgage Jarrett will be invited to return to the Sportatorium as 100 percent owner of the USWA, instead of the 60 per cent he controlled with Von Erich. If that's not a shrewd business strategy, I don't know what is. When people are willing to document the other story, we'll tell that, too.

TV TEMPO

Oct. 1-7

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Haku draw vs. Koko B. Ware; (BRO. LUV) Dusty Rhodes; (6-MAN) Demolition d. W.T. Jones/Kent Carlson/Kevin Krueger; Tugboat d. Conquistador; Ted DiBiase d. Red Tyler; Tito Santana d. Barry O; Barbarian d. Jim Brunzell; Randy Savage d. Reno Riggins; Sama Simba d. Al Burke; Genius d. Gary Star; Hart Foundation d. Tom Burton/Bob Bradley; (UPDATE) Heenan-Bossman angle. RESTHOLD.

(UWF) - Steve Williams d. Davey (The Observer) Meltzer, crams UWF program in Davey's mouth; David Sammartino d. Cactus Jack by DQ; Col. DeBeers d. Michael Allen; Paul Orndorff d. Riki Ataki and after, Williams jumps into ring & Doc & Paul get into shoving match; Billy Jack Haynes d. Spitball Patterson; B. Brian Blair vs. Danny Spivey double countout and ends in pullapart; (CAPTAIN'S CORNER) Lou Albano w. Blair; (RECAP) Spivey attack on Blair at UWF press conference. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [MAIN EVENT]: (From CLASH) Hansen-Luger angle; Stan Hansen d. Scott Allen; DOOM d. Riggins/Alex Porteau; Ric Flair/Arn Anderson d. Brad Batten/Dave Diamond; Southern Boys d. Dynamites; Sid Vicious d. Bobby Eaton. RESTHOLD. [WORLD WIDE]: S. Boys d. State Patrol; Dutch Mantel d. Joe Barrett; Terry Taylor d. Brian Carr; (WRAPUP) Gordon Solie (blindfolded) interviews Black Scorpion; Tim Horner/Tom Zenk d. Moondog Rex/Barry Horowitz; Michael Hayes d. Brett Holliday; DOOM d. Keith Hart/Italian Stallion. BOMB-PLUS. [NWA PRO]: Ric Flair/Arn Anderson d. Rock & Roll Express; Juicer d. Tony Burton; Nasty Boys d. Tommy Rich/Greg Sawyer; James Soloman d. Stan Hansen by DQ; (WRAPUP) Gordon-Scorpion interview; (From CLASH) Hansen-Luger angle; Junkyard Dog d. Dave Johnson; Steiners d. Gil Cantanella/Rick Ford; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Hayes. RESTHOLD.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Joel Deaton d. Terry Leland; Bugman Michaels d. Phoenix; (LPWA) Misty Blue Simmes/Heidi Lee Morgan d. Jan Flame/The Beast; (CLASSIC) Adrian Street d. Mike Golden by DQ; Blazers (R.D. Swain/Ray Lloyd) d. Mad Dog Joe/Buffalo Fritz; (INTL) Kevin & Kerry Von Erich vs. Tatsumi Fujinami/Hiroshi Hase; (ANGLE) Jimmy Powell becomes AMERICA POWER; Nick Busich d. The Terrorist. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(ICW) - Pedro Morales d. Black Gordman; (INTERVIEW) Barry Windham & Lex Luger; Luger d. Marauder; (PROFILE) Buddy Rose; Ox Baker d. Tom Davies; Mike Guestov d. Eric Tombstone; Randy Rose d. Mark Reagan; Other winner: Austin Idol. BOMB.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Tony Arce/El Vulcano d. El Pantera/El Felino 2-3; Fuerza Guerrera/Jaque Mate/Pierroth Jr. d. Octagon/Cachorro Mendoza/El Volador 2-3; El Gran Schieck/Abdul/Pirata Morgan d. Mogur/Super Astro/Eddy Guerrero; El Satanico/El Dandy/Emilio Charles Jr. d. Atlantis/Javier Cruz/Kung Fu when Kung Fu turns on Atlantis and Satanico turns on Dandy; Los Hermanos Dinamita d. Konan el Barbaro/El Rayo de Jalisco Jr./Sangre Chicana 2-3. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Jeff Jarrett d. Nightstalker; Steve Austin d. Chris Germany; (USWA TAG TITLE UPDATE); Gary Young/Dog of War d. Billy Travis/Bill Dundee when John Tatum runs in, Jeannie-Tessa tussle & brawl erupts; (REPLAY) Sweet Daddy Falcone/Chico Torres d. Brickhouse Brown/Bubba Fangman RESTHOLD.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Tony Anthony d. T.D. Steel; Brown d. Eddie Gilbert by DQ when Anthony runs in & Brick is hung w. noose; Danny Davis d. Nebula; (ANGLE) Davis refuses to join "Memphis Mafia;" Joey Maggs d. Quasar; (ANGLE) Brian Lee/Don Harris quit on Downtown Bruno; Gilbert d. Ken Raper; Jarrett/Jeff Gaylord d. Lou Fabiano/Bruno by DQ when Lee/Harris run in & save Bruno. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LPWA) - Judy Martin d. Sindee Paradise; Nasty Girls d. Shelley Francis/Big Mo; Bad, Black & Beautiful d. Power & Storm. BOMB-PLUS.

(WVEU/SUPERSTARS) - Boni Blackstone introduces the new "Sammy doll," whose mouth moves every time Sir Samuel F. Kent talks.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Tugboat d. Black Bart; Warlord d. Jones; Dusty Rhodes d. Paul Diamond; Demolition d. Carlson/Krueger/Jones; Sgt. Slaughter d. Anderson; Simba d. Burke; Power & Glory d. Brunzell/Kramer. BOMB-PLUS. [SUPERSTARS]: Savage d. Riggins; Jimmy Snuka d. Black Demon (Jose Luis Rivera); (UPDATE) Slaughter/Adnan attack Nikoli Volkoff; Curt Hennig d. Jim Evans; Harts d. Burton/Bradley; Dino Bravo d. Krueger (who stretchers). 'Quake aftershocks Krueger twice; DiBiase d. Tyler; Bossman d. Tom Stone; (BRO. LUV) Rick Martel sprays Arrogance at Damien's sack, then sprays in Jake Roberts' eye. Bossman saves. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(AWA/ESPN) - [LAST SHOW OF THE SERIES]: {REPEAT OF JULY 11} <TEAM CHALLENGE BATTLE ROYAL> Jake Milliman wins, sews up TCS for "Larry's Legends;" (AWA WORLD TAG TITLE) D.J. Peterson/Trooper d. Destruction Crew to win belts; Larry Zbyszko d. Jamie Magnum. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SOUTHEASTERN) - Chief Little Lynn d. Ron Davis; Richie Dye d. Bad Boy Kenny Arden; Assassin/Killer Kyle d. Pat Powers/Black Atlas; (REPLAY) Gary Saxton d. Glamour Boy; (ANGLE) Dye slaps announcer J.C. Carson during interview. BOMB.

(PORTLAND) - Grappler d. John Rambo by DQ when Scotty the Body chases Grap w. loaded boot; Scotty d. Doug Masters; (KENDO STICK MATCH) Scott Norton d. Equalizer by DQ when Bobby Blair runs in. Rambo saves; Steve Sawyer d. Brad Anderson by DQ when Brad hangs Sawyer w. lariat; (PNW TAG TITLE) Latin Connection vs. Olivers in progress as show ends. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Steiners d. Ring Lords; Nasty Boys d. Soloman/Ford; (WNN): Gordon reviews DOOM attack on Arn Anderson, replays Sting-Vicious-Scorpion angle; Moondog d. Scotty Allen; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Missy Hyatt guest hosts & shows Freebirds' "Hollywood Tour of the Stars;" DOOM d. Mike Rotunda/Horner; Other winners: Freebirds. RESTHOLD. [WCW]: Renegade Warriors d. Ring Lords; Juicer d. Sawyer; J.W. Storm d. Allen; R&R Ex d. Jeff Stone/Bill Ford; (WRAPUP) Gordon-Scorpion; (CHICAGO) Vicious attacks Sting w. chair during match w. Scorpion; Hansen d. Pablo Crenshaw; Nasty Boys d. S. Boys; (CHICAGO) Nasties deck Steiners w. U.S. belts & powerslam Scott on table at HAVOC contract-signing; State Patrol d. Parker/Riggins; Pillman d. Burton; Taylor d. Canatella; Rex d. Keith Hart; Allen Iron Eagle d. Coates; Arn Anderson d. James Peterson. RESTHOLD.

[MAIN EVENT]: (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Flair/Arn; Taylor d. Stan Lane; Freebirds d. Pillman/Iron Eagle. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - Craig Johnson guest co-host. (VIDEOS) Jimmy Valiant, Idol; Sheik Abdul Hussein d. Maggs; (REPLAYS) Jerry Lawler d. Curt Hennig for AWA world title; Snowman d. Lawler for USWA world title when Leon Spinks KOs Lawler; Terry Funk vs. Lawler; (STUDIO) Davis d. Fabiano; (ANGLE) Jeff Jarrett & Eddie Gilbert argue over families. Eddie decks Jeff, pounds him w. shoe into heavy juice. Jeff rallies until pullapart w. several escapes; Bill Dundee d. Samurai by DQ when Sheik runs in. Sheik/Samurai double kendo stick on Dundee, who finally chases them off w. chair; (ANGLE) Doug Gilbert tells Davis Eddie offers another $2,500 if Danny beats Doug again; (USWA TAG TITLE) Anthony/Doug d. Jarrett/Gaylord for belts when Eddie (hiding under ring) holds onto Jeff's leg & Jeff COR. Maggs subbed for juicing Jeff until mid-match when Jarrett reappeared. Joey did not seem happy. POWERSLAM.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Lance Russell/Jim Ross/Kimberly Murphy/Joel Goodhart, GREAT AMERICAN FANS JAM, on Black Scorpion mystery: (LR) "You'd think this was an episode of TWIN PEAKS." (JR) "I thought that was Missy Hyatt." (KM) "Jim, this *is* a family line." (JG) "Jim was just staying abreast of current affairs." (KM) "JOEL!!!!" 2. Ross, HOT-97, on Paul E.: "He's the only 25-year-old who makes $350,000-a-year and still asks his father for an allowance." 3. Ross, PH, on Paul E.: "You are the only guy who's 25 and still lives with his mom and dad...and, for goodness sakes, in Scarsdale!" 4. Steve Wulf, SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, on WFAN: "A guy called in and asked whether the Four Horsemen were good guys or bad guys. I wanted to call in and ask, which Four Horsemen, the ones from the National Wrestling Alliance or the ones from the Apocalypse?" 5. Ross, NME, on Hansen: "He stays fairly focused for a maniac." 6. Paul E., PH, on Nasty Boys' Death Drop: "It hurts your finances worse than a stock market crash." 7. Paul E., PH, on Brian Knobbs: "He has very white teeth." 8. Downtown Bruno, WMC, on his glasses: "The other day, I had a wreck because my prescription ran out while I was driving down the street." 9. Craig Johnson, WMC, on Sheik Hussein's carpet: "I would say it's a Persian rug but with the trouble between Iran and Iraq, that's not the place to be." 10. Ross/Paul E., PH, on Moondog: (JR) "He probably works for Alpo or Purina." (PED) "He'd make an excellent spokesperson for them."

11. Paul E., PH: "If every dog has to have a bone, then Scotty Allen is a fire hydrant. 12. Johnson, USWA: "Jeannie wants her two cents...or in this case, two slaps." 13. Lee Marshall, AWA, on Pistol Pete DeNucci: "I don't know if his powder is dry." 14. Larry Zbyszko, AWA: "In Larryland, we play no games." 15. Roddy Piper, WWF-S, on Sherri: "Look at the stretch marks on that thing." 16. Piper, WWF-S, on Heenan: "He holds the record for most titles lost." 17. Piper, WWF-S, on Hennig: "He is the Perfect Challenger, except when it comes to blow-drying your hair." 18. Gordon Solie, WWW, to Scorpion: "Say what you have to say and let me go, please." 19. Dick Slater, WMC: "Men who tell you what they're gonna do are men you don't worry about." 20. Jerry Lawler, WMC, on Snowman: "I thought he wanted to box but all he can box are apples & oranges at Kroger."

21. Eddie Gilbert/Jarrett, WMC: (EG) "Jeff Jarrett, your daddy and granddaddy keep giving you all the money and matches you want." (JJ) "Eddie, your problem is you tried to go to the big time and couldn't cut it." 22. Gorilla Monsoon/Bobby Heenan, PTW: (GM) "Have you seen an oculist lately?" (BH) "I don't get massages when I come into New York." 23. Monsoon/Heenan, PTW: (GM) "I left you in the very capable hands of Vince McMahon." (BH) "Strap me in and give me the juice."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Eddie Marlin, WMC, on Snowman: "When you offered to hock the world heavyweight belt to a drug dealer, then you are NOTHING in my book!" 2. Zbyszko, AWA: "This kid Sting is a coward....Vince McMahon Jr.'s ANABOLIC WARRIOR runs in the men's room when they see me coming in the airport." 3. Paul E., PH, on Tony Gilliam: "He's a jerk. He's always out too late. His tan is strictly by Max Factor." 4. Paul E., PH: "Missy did look great but, then again, if I had as much plastic surgery as Michael Jackson, I'd look great, too." 5. Jarrett, WMC: "Eddie Gilbert, you're a little off because you're going through a stinkin' divorce!" 6. Zbyszko, AWA: "We keep spending millions of dollars and sending all these men over to Saudi Arabia when we have hundreds of nuclear missiles." 7. Lawler, WMC, on Snowman: "He's the worst wrestler I've ever seen."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Lawler, USWA LEGENDS: "Will the woman who had 11 children and left them in Dallas please pick them up? They just beat the Cowboys." 2. Paul E., PH: "Would somebody wake Gordon (Solie) up from his nap?" 3. Paul E./Ross, PH: (PE) "How old is Gordon Solie? Ninety?" (JR) "No, he's not." (PE) "Okay, he's 89." 4. Wayne Bloom, AWA, to Eric Bishoff: "How's your eye? Because you obviously have no vision." 5. Johnson, WMC: "If Bruno makes a deal with the Sheik, will that violate the trade embargo?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. ANABOLIC WARRIOR (Zbyszko on Ultimate) 2. BUCKHEAD BULLIES (Ross on DOOM). 3. HIS LARGENESS (Ross on Cornette). 4. CRYIN' BRIAN (Hayes on Pillman). 5. CHIEF FULLABULL (Hayes on Allen Iron Eagle). 6. CHRIS (The Blimp) BERMAN (Zbyszko on ESPN host). 7. GENERAL ADENOIDS (Piper on Gen. Adnan). 8. THE WARTHOG (Piper on Earthquake). 9. LANCE THE GREEK (Jimmy Garvin on Lance Russell). 10. DIRTY WHITE LANDLORD (Greg Anderson on Bobby Blair).

BEST PICTURES - 1. WMC, Gilbert-Jarrett brawl. 2. WWF-S, Savage top rope crash on Riggins. 3. NWA, Solie blindfolded during Scorpion interview. 4. WWF-S, Bret Hart giving kid sunglasses. 5. WMC, Eddie Gilbert holding Jarrett's food during USWA tag title match.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Ross, PH: "...time will tell." 2. Eric Bishoff, AWA: "...what goes around, comes around." 3. Bruno, WMC: "...bigger they are, the harder they fall."

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. SOUTHEASTERN, for bad audio on J.C. Carson's commentary. 2. WMTU-TV, for unwatchable feed of USWA wrestling. 3. NWA PRO, for flashing BRETT HOLLIDAY super up for James Soloman.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. TBS, for playing syndicated NWA MAIN EVENT in first 5 minutes of TBS/NME slot Sept. 30. 2. Tony Gilliam, PH, for calling Scotty Allen "Scotty Williams." 3. Marshall, AWA: "Harley Race was '8 times' NWA champion.

BOO AWARD - ICW, for passing off these old matches. I'm sure they cleared it but I'd like to know who gave them rights to the Lex Luger match this week.

MATWATCHING

NOT BAD: Despite all the barbs (many of them deserved) about the new UWF, the premiere show on SPORTS CHANNEL AMERICA was well-done on a technical basis. No serious glitches but it remains to be seen if the talent roster is enough to sustain interest.

PART TWO: UWF will tape again Thursday night. The promotion ran three ads on the show for UWF merchandise. It appears they are attempting to copy Titan straight down the line (the graphics look like WWF circa 1986).

BIGGEST GRIPE: The overdub of Herb Abrams and Bruno Sammartino is not well-mixed. The WWF was the first to finally master the "feel of being there" audio mix of announcers in the studio. The NWA has arrived there this year, as well, even though the announcers at times have little to trigger their enthusiasm.

MONDAY NIGHT IN ATLANTA: Michael Hayes was not at the NWA tapings Oct. 1 and Jimmy Garvin, who did color with Lance Russell, was still limping badly. It's highly doubtful Garvin will be healed in time for HALLOWEEN HAVOC.

A MULKEY RERUN????: I don't usually give away the finishes before TV airings but The State Patrol gained a TV win last Monday and it will be worth seeing if any crowd reax follows.

BACK AGAIN: Zeus (Tiny Lister) was again at the show Monday night but promotion officials still insist he won't be used. Yet, some realtors have been showing Lister houses in the Atlanta area.

A BIG ONE: The Steiners-Midnight Express match, which will air Saturday on WCW, is said to be a PILEDRIVER-PLUS affair. It runs about 13 minutes and I'm told you won't want to go to the refrigerator. A definite BROADCAST/CABLE TV MATCH of the year candidate.

WILL HE PICKET?: The Steiners refused to go to the ring with Thunderbolt Patterson Monday night and T'bolt reportedly left the building in a huff. Now, the betting line is not if but when Thunderbolt will begin picketing CNN Center.

MORE MISSING: Brian Pillman was also absent from the shows for this weekend but nothing unusual about that. These guys have to have a week off at some point and Brian hasn't been heavily used of late.

ON TO JAPAN: Jeff and Jerry Jarrett apparently are headed to the SWS show in Japan, apparently as part of a talent exchange for the future.

STILL DECLINING: Titan's business is averaging 30 to 50 per cent down over the same period a year ago and no one in the company is extraordinarily optimistic of that changing, at least for now, except on pay-per-view nights.

CHICAGO $$$$: First couple of days' advance for HALLOWEEN HAVOC's live gate looks good. And I think WCW will make the building look reasonably full for TV. I'd be the last guy to bet against them, considering their past track record but this one, however, sure looks shaky for a big PPV buy.

DON'T BET ON IT: You will hear talk that Bobby Heenan is leaving Titan for the NWA. Here's the story: the Turner folks have had "a discussion" with the Brain about coming in but I don't believe for a minute Bobby's bolting.

HOW 'BOUT A TURKEY INSTEAD?: Titan seems to be sanguine on chances for a big PPV buy for SURVIVOR SERIES and I agree. I think, in addition to a tough economy that may block those $25 buys in as large a chunk as usual, I think people have seen that SURVIVOR is a meaningless show, unless it advances an angle and not even that is enough today.

WILL DUSTY WIN HIS FOURTH?: WWF is going with a lot of bunkhouse-type battle royals during November, which I predict won't shake the houses down. Of course, they could go ahead and declare Dusty a four-time Bunkhouse champion and spare us that excruciating hype.

POWER HOUR UPDATE: Change in plans at TBS...the POWER HOUR is now skedded to be slotted at 9:05 a.m. (EDT) Saturdays beginning Oct. 20, instead of the originally announced 10:05. Reason: it's easier for TBS to start a movie at 10:05 before its noon SEC football.

YOU CAN HELP, TOO: If you can't attend the TOM ROBINSON BENEFIT SPECTACULAR (see Page 1) but would like to contribute a tax-deductible $15.00 gift, promoter Dennis Coraluzzo will provide a seat for a handicapped person at the show. Send to: EXCALIBUR PROMOTIONS, 1020 COOPER ST., DEPTFORD NJ 08096. We'll profile of Robinson, an apparent victim of lupus, in an upcoming issue.

CHEETAH TO COME?: Word has it The Cheetah Kid (Ted Petty) will be brought into the NWA as soon as a good undercard program can be developed for him.

STILL HANGIN' IN: SOUTHEASTERN still hangs onto its slot in Chattanooga. It drew about 100 last weekend but announcer Brian Trotter's wraparounds were, mercifully, eliminated.

NO CHANGES HERE: Steve Keirn kept the Florida title Thursday night over Mark Starr in Tampa in what turned out to be DQ night. Jim (The Less-Than-Great Muta) Backlund ran in to spray green mist in Keirn's face. Lou Perez beat Turner Ross by DQ on a Ron Slinker run-in.

THIS WEEK IN THE NWA: Among the matches scheduled to be taped Monday and Tuesday for the weekend of Oct. 20-21: Juicer-Dutch Mantel, Nasty Boys-Terry Taylor/Tommy Rich, Moondog Rex-Taylor, Taylor-Mantel and the airing of a Flair/Arn-DOOM angle which was taped last Friday in Greensboro.

EVEN IN SI: SPORTS ILLUSTRATED's feature on sports-talk radio included Steve Wulf's paragraph on Jody MacDonald's and Rich Mancuso's wrestling hour on WFAN in New York. Wulf relates his reaction to a caller's question about the Four Horsemen: "I began feeling a little like Kurtz, the Marlon Brando character in APOCALYPSE NOW! I had gone deeper and deeper into a world I had never known before."

CLASH XIII: At the Jacksonville CLASH, expect to see a Flair/Arn vs. DOOM gimmick match and Lex Luger vs. The Motor City Madman (Mike Moore), along with a Sting-Scorpion angle.

RATINGS RAP

ALL-AMERICAN RULES THE ROOST

FOR THIRD STRAIGHT WEEK

In yet another surprise, WWF ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING topped the Nielsen pack in cable ratings for the week ending Oct. 1. The win was ALL-AM's third straight.

ALL-AMERICAN scored a 3.0 rating and 8.0 per cent share of audience, further impressive up against the usually strong competition of NFL pre-game shows on CBS, NBC and ESPN.

PRIME TIME WRESTLING continued a stronger-than-usual fall with a 2.9/4.4. NFL MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL games have only averaged 16.0 on ABC, which is down 12% over last year.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING held its own with a 2.8 (Ole Anderson's Saturday average since taking over as booker has remained at 2.7) and 6.1 share.

But NWA MAIN EVENT and POWER HOUR registered sharp drops. MAIN EVENT dipped to a 2.1, down 19% from its previous week, and POWER HOUR, consigned to an 11:50 p.m. (EDT) start after another extra-inning Braves effort, fell to an all-time low 1.2. Ironically, the Saturday morning replay of PH, which is about to expire, nearly equaled the first-run with a 1.1.

CABLE

Week Ending Oct. 1	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/30)	3.0	8.0	1.61 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 10/1)	2.9	4.4	1.55 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 9/29)	2.8	6.1	1.56 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/30)	2.1	4.5	1.18 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 9/28)	1.2	3.0	776,000
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 9/29)	1.1	9.8	720,000

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Battle Takes New Turn

VON ERICH'S LAWYER, ADAMS BOTH RESIGN

DALLAS----A leading attorney for wrestler Kevin Von Erich has resigned from Von Erich's case in the continuing effort over control of the Dallas territory and Sportatorium. Simultaneously, a MATWATCH Texas correspondent reports Chris Adams, who bolted Jerry Jarrett's USWA, to book Von Erich's revived World Class, has also left Von Erich.

Von Erich, who has experienced declining crowds and money woes, was accused of not providing his attorney will complete information in the legal battle with Jarrett.

Adams, who reportedly encouraged Von Erich to make the break from Jarrett, resigned as booker in a dispute over booking fees for WCCW. Adams reportedly told Von Erich he can make more money booking his own cards without having to be under the World Class umbrella.

Dallas insiders expect Jarrett's USWA to be offered a chance to return to the Sportatorium, boosted by local TV syndication, in a matter of weeks.

SCORPION, WOMEN TOP "FANS' JAM"

ATLANTA----An abundance of interest in The Black Scorpion's identity and questions over women reporters in locker rooms topped conversation during the NWA GREAT AMERICAN FANS' JAM on The Wrestling Hotline Friday night.

The flood of calls over the Scorpion prompted JAM host Lance Russell to comment, "You'd think this was an episode of TWIN PEAKS." (See LINES OF THE WEEK, Page 4).

During the final hour, with Russell, Jim Ross and wrestling radio talk show hosts Larry Katz, Kimberly Murphy and Joel Goodhart, Russell asked Murphy about the issue of women having equal access to athletic locker rooms, in the wake of the controversy involving BOSTON HERALD sports reporter Lisa Olson and the New England Patriots. "It's not the most pleasant place to be," said Murphy. "I respect a wrestler's right to privacy but a wrestler should equally recognize I have a job to do to get a story and sometimes, it's the only way." Goodhart responded, "You ain't getting an interview in the shower."

The four-hour special drew calls from throughout the U.S., largely from children, teens and college-age young adults. At deadline, no information was available on the total number of calls but some technical problems occurred from the party-line format as a number of callers frequently made deliberate attempts to interrupt other phoners.

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